



Douglas Norman Higgins

June 18, 1943 - October 30, 2021

Douglas N. Higgins passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, October 30, 2021 after a three year illness. Douglas was born on June 18, 1943 in Dundee, MI the beloved son of Norman and Bernice (Kempf) Higgins. Doug grew up in Manchester, MI and was a 1961 graduate of Manchester High School. He was a devoted partner, son, father, grandfather and friend.

In 1966, he started his own underground construction company, Douglas N. Higgins, Inc. Much to his pride, it is still family operated to this day. His business sense and extensive knowledge was earned through hard work. Respect for his employees was always top priority, with many working their entire career at Higgins. His word and reputation was paramount. Doug was able to go into the office up to his last week, where his attention to detail was as sharp as ever.

He was blessed to have all three of his children and son-in-law working at his company. More importantly, he loved being with his children and family. Spending quality time at his homes in Saline and Florida, as well as at Pleasant Lake, provided many unforgettable memories.

Doug treasured his winters in Naples, Florida with Carolyn. He cherished their long bike rides and walks to the beach, as well as visits from their children and grandchildren. Sitting together on the lanai of their condo was one of his favorite moments of the day.

His relationship with his grandchildren was one of a kind. Doug never missed

a sporting event, school event, graduation or anything that involved them. He was their #1 Fan and they always had his full support in whatever their activity. Doug really enjoyed playing golf with his friends and family. His quiet, competitive nature was often exhibited in his golf matches. He loved being outdoors, especially looking after his landscaping and trees. Mowing his lawn and taking care of his flowers brought him many peaceful times, and his backyard was his sanctuary.

Doug is survived by Carolyn Rice, his partner of over 35 years, his children; Kelly (David) Wilkie of Saline, MI, Daniel Higgins of Saline, MI and Bill (Maura) Higgins of Bend, OR; his grandchildren, Ryan, Lauren and Kathryn Wilkie, Kaitlyn and Dawson Higgins, and Liam and Reece Higgins. He is also survived by Carolyn's children Brenda (Bryan) Little, Carrie (Jason) Braun, and Dawna Rice (Don Ludwig); grandchildren, Amanda Gerber (Chris), Jacob Little, Carly (Cameron) Fulps, Cassidy (Jesus) Alvarez, Caden Stein and Lydia (Eric) Coval.; and great-grandchildren, Owen, Landon, Hudson, Brailynn, Bennett and Lacey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, infant brother and numerous aunts and uncles. Cremation has taken place. Per Doug's request, a private celebration of life will be held at a later date. If desired, donations in Doug's name may be made to Arbor Hospice and Palliative Care in Ann Arbor, MI or to the United Methodist Retirement Communities in Chelsea, MI; both near and dear to Doug's heart. Should you want to send written condolences and/or remembrances please send to 3390 Travis Pointe Road, Suite A Ann Arbor, MI 48108 in care of Carolyn Rice and the Higgins Family. To leave a memory you have of Doug or to sign his guestbook, please visit www.rbfhsalinee.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Douglas Norman Higgins*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Dear Higgins Family, Carolyn and Family*

The world and your family lost a great man. A self-made man. I remember one of the first stories you told me about your dad, Bill, was when he would drive his front loader tractor to and from work when he was starting up the family business. He truly was a self-made man.

More than this he was a hard worker and a very genuine person. I always loved talking about sports with your dad. He was a competitor. He loved his University of Michigan Wolverines and loved to talk about the rivalry with my Spartans. Although he had a fiery Competitive spirit, it was his Kind heart and giving nature that made him so great. I'll never forget the 2 of you and your generous spirit for hosting my Bachelor party at Travis Pointe. I remember the great camaraderie, beautiful day, and after dark putting contest that your dad orchestrated so graciously as he always did.

I know your dad was a private man, never showy, but deep down in that big heart of his he was kind, giving, and loved his family more than anything in the world. He was so proud of each and everyone of his children and grandchildren. I will miss your father greatly. We want you to know that We are here for you and your family for anything that you need. Thank you so much for sharing your father with us over the years.

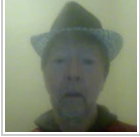
Your friend Corey, Neha and the Dean Family

Corey Dean - November 15, 2021 at 08:59 PM

JS

“ To the entire family of Douglas Higgins . I am saddened to hear the passing of Doug. Carolyn and everyone you have my sincerest condolences. I was a classmate of Doug and Carolyn and remember the last time I saw you both. We were at a class gathering at Walmpers Lake about 10 years ago. Doug always was a kind person. Please take care of yourselves. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Joan Fehr Schindler - November 02, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“ Doug was, is, my first and only cousin on the Higgins side. We were about the same age and played together often in the Higgins orchard, and the Higgins Farm Market, and at Grandpa and Grandma Higgins's house in the evenings when the older folks were playing cards in the other room. We got along well.

After Uncle Norm, Doug's dad, took over the orchard we sometimes worked together there. We were a grade apart at Manchester High. After I went to the U of Michigan Doug visited me there and we went to a basketball game together. I have always appreciated his relaxed attitude and goodwill and sense of humor.

After both his dad and mine had passed on, he came once every year to visit me and my mother wherever she was living. He and Carolyn came to some of the birthday parties we had for her in Decembers close to Christmas. . I was always impressed by how loyal Doug was to all of us and to his mother and dad. He was a true friend no matter what was happening.

After my mother passed on, I didn't see him for ten years or more, but when I was ill a few years ago I thought of him a lot and wrote to him, and he responded by coming to visit me, with Carolyn, in the spring of 2018 when they came West to spend time with Doug's sons. .I'm really glad we got together then and had a meal together along with much reminiscence. Doug was and is a prince of a man, to his family and to all. I believe in immortal life and feel sure that he is alive and aware in a blessed state of consciousness. Thank you, cousin Doug, for your enlivening friendship over the years.

--cousin Hugh

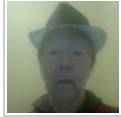
Hugh Higgins - November 01, 2021 at 05:48 PM



Hugh, Thank you for your kind words. As we were writing my dad's obituary, there was so much we wanted to write. Thank you for sharing the Orchard Story. My dad had fond memories of his time with your family. Your memories have given us a light during these sad times. So glad they were able to visit in Oregon.

Kelly Wilkie (Doug's daughter)

Kelly Wilkie - November 02, 2021 at 10:37 AM



Thank you, Kelly. Very good to hear from you.

Hugh Higgins - November 09, 2021 at 10:15 AM



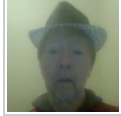
Dear Kelly, I am glad that my remembrance of childhood days with your dad was meaningful to you. Yes, we first played and later worked in the orchard owned by Grandpa Frank Higgins and later by Doug's dad, my Uncle Norm. I don't think we realized how lucky we were at the time. I'd like to share one other memory. It was when Doug and I were both in high school. Aunt Bernice and Uncle Norm were great friends of the Manchester High football coach, Max Lee, and his wife Yvonne. I liked Mr. Lee and was statistician for the team. Once after losing a tough game he said to me, jokingly, "Hugh, whatever you do, don't become a coach!" Somehow it happened that the two families (including my parents) and the Lees decided to take a summer vacation together at a lake in Northern Michigan. (I don't remember which lake, maybe even Higgins Lake.) I remember riding up in the car with Doug, watching the woods get thicker and enjoying the prospect of just having some fun. It was a fantastic week or ten days, with some swimming and boating, or just hanging out around the lake, and playing cards or board games in the evening. The Lees and the two Higgins groups felt like one family. Doug had a lot of fun and was often the life of the party. It would have been pretty dull without him. These precious memories have been coming back to me. Best to you and your family, Kelly!

Hugh Higgins - November 11, 2021 at 02:29 PM



Thank you again Hugh for the wonderful stories. You and my dad were blessed to have these memories. I love hearing them. He was a character - although private, his sense of humor was uplifting. Take care, Kelly

Kelly Wilkie - November 30, 2021 at 10:51 PM



Yes, blessed for sure. Thanks, Kelly!

Hugh Higgins - December 17, 2021 at 12:20 PM



Douglas Higgind on TV Password July 1964
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4jqoTbCjtA>

Paul Moore - July 14, 2025 at 12:51 PM